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TUESDAY
JUNE 1, 1954

André de Staercke and I took the 11:20 train to Brussels this morning. I am staying at the Metropole.

This afternoon I called on Freddie Alger and Phil Sprouse at the Embassy, and later visited John Brown at USIA headquarters, Boulevard de Waterloo. While I was there Red Dowling telephoned me from Bonn about the Ambassadors' meeting, now scheduled for June 14 in Paris. This seems to be the outcome of my memorandum of last week to Bob Bowie, but those invited have been limited to Aldrich, Hughes, Conant, Dillon and myself. Bowie, MacArthur, or Merchant will come from Washington to attend it. Paris has been selected as the locale; unfortunately, the majority of those asked to attend cannot meet on an earlier date, which would have been desirable.

Jim Conant called me tonight at my hotel on this same subject and asked me to meet him in Bonn next Tuesday for a preliminary talk. I shall try to do this.

This evening I dined at the Restaurant de la Couronne with Messrs. Spaak, de Staercke and Rothschild. We ate, amongst many other things, some fresh raw herring from Holland, considered a great delicacy. This restaurant is on the Grande Place, a wonderful seventeenth century square. When illuminated at night, it is [redacted] picturesque.

Spaak was insistent upon the necessity of bringing the EDC to a vote soon in the French Parliament. He thinks it would pass handily if the Government would present it forcefully.

Spaak says the lack of firmness and policy in the French Government has already and for too long seriously endangered the security of Europe. He is prepared to do everything in his power to force the French to face up to political realities.

We talked until midnight about various things which might be done and I will cover our conversation in telegrams to the Department after my return to Paris.

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